

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-01 DODE-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 /053 W
-----112112Z 130642 /67

P R 111812Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9292
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
USMISSION NATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 02391

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, PFOR, BE, US, GW
SUBJECT: HOUSE ARMED SERVICES STAFFDEL VISIT TO EUROPE RE
PROPOSED EUCOM RELOCATION

REF: A. STATE 43642 B. BRUSSELS 2096

1. APPOINTMENT FOR MESSRS TALLEY AND GIES WITH CHARGE WAS
CHANGED FROM THAT GIVEN REFTEL B TO 2:30 P.M. FRIDAY,
MARCH 11, IN COORDINATION WITH SHAPE.

2. CHARGE REVIEWED HISTORY OF BELGIAN AWARENESS OF PROPOSED
EUCOM RELOCATION LEADING UP TO DAVIGNON INITIATIVE REPORTED
76 BRUSSELS 12689. CHARGE SUMMARIZED DAVIGNON'S MAIN POINTS.

3. IN ADDITION WER REPEATED OTHER CONSIDERATIONS WHICH
WORKING LEVEL FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS HAD MADE TO US IN
SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS. THESE, WHICH WERE DISCUSSED AT
FEB 8 MEETING AT EUCOM, INCLUDE: (A) BELGIAN CONCERN
OVER EUCOM'S RESPONSIBILITIES OUTSIDE OF THE NATO AREA,
OVER WHICH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WOULD HAVE NO INPUT
OR CONTROL; (B) THE NEED, SHOULD THE EUCOM RELOCATION
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TAKE PLACE, TO NEGOTIATE A NEW US-BELGIAN AGREEMENT
PROVIDING FOR THE STATUS OF EUCOM PERSONNEL AT SHAPE;
AND (C) THAT THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF THE
PROPOSED MOVE SHOULD BE CAREFULLY ADDRESSED AND CONSIDER
THE HARMFUNEFFECTS AS WELL AS THOSE ECONOMICALLY
BENEFICIAL.

4. EMBASSY PRESENTATION COVERED FOLLOWING ADDITIONAL POINTS: (A) IF IT BECOMES USG POLICY TO PROPOSE THE EUCOM RELOCATION TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT, WE WILL NEED A SIMPLE, CLEEHSZLENVINCING STRATEGIC ARGUMENT FOR DOING SO WHICH THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT CAN USE IN THE BELGIN PARLIAMENT. WE NOTED THAT CONVINCING STRATEGIC ARGUMENTS IN BELGIUM MIGHT NOT BE WELL RECEIVED IN BONN AND THAT, THEREFORE, CAREFUL COORDINATION WAS NECESSARY. (B) THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN BELGIUM HAD CHANGED SINCE OUR LAST CONTACT WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY ON THIS ISSUE AS PARLIAMENT HAS BEEN DISSOLVED AND ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD ON APRIL 17. AT THIS TIME, WE CANNOT PREDICTWHAT EFFECT THIS WILL HAVE ON THE POLITICAL STRENGTH OR COMPOSITION OF THE NEXT BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. (C) THERE SHOULD BE NO PUBLIC DISCUSSION IN THE U.S. OF THE PROPOSAL PRIOR TO A FORMAL APPROACH TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT. WE ALSO NOTED THAT IF THE BELGIANS ARE APPROACHED FORMALLY AND UNDERTAKE TO SECURE PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL, THE U.S. MUST BE ABLE TO DELIVER THE REQUIRED CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL AND FUNDS FOR THE RELOCATION OR RISK SERIOUS EMBARRASSMENT TO THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT.

5. MESSRS TALLEY AND GIES SAID THEY APPRECIATED THE BRIEFING WHICH THEY FOUND INTERESTING AND ENLIGHTENING. NO DOCUMENTS WERE REQUESTED OR FURNISHED TO THEM. RENNER

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